

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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Instantaneous Conversions

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH everlasting life . . . is passed from death unto life" — John 5:24

"He that believeth on the Son HATH everlasting life" — John 3:36

"He that believeth on me HATH everlasting life" — John 6:47

The moment one puts his trust in Jesus he INSTANTLY has everlasting life. Everybody who is ever saved is saved instantaneously. People are not saved by a process of living right. They are not saved by a process of church ceremonies like confirmation or baptism. People are not saved after a period of probation, "if they hold out faithful." People will not be saved in Heaven, on the basis of living a good life here. No, salvation is an instantaneous matter! One who trusts in Christ has everlasting life that very instant, is born again, is a child of God, has his name written down in Heaven, has all his sins laid on Jesus. He is "passed from death unto life." Instantaneous conversions are the only kind of conversions there are.

I. Bible Cases Of Instantaneous Conversion

All of us ought to earnestly seek to follow the pattern of the New Testament. Preachers ought to preach like Bible preachers. Christians ought to pray like Bible Christians prayed. And people we preach the gospel to ought to be saved like they were saved in Bible times. And that means instantaneous conversions.

1. *The dying thief.* The conversion of the dying thief, on a cross beside Jesus, is told in very few words. Luke 23:42 and 43 says: "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." How simple! How quick! The dying thief said, "Lord, remember me," and Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." The very moment the dying sinner turned to Jesus for mercy, he got it! That is instant conversion of one of the most wicked sinners.

2. *Cornelius and his household.* In Acts 10:43 and 44 we are told of the conversion of Cornelius and his entire household. "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." The context tells us that these who were converted magnified God and praised Him aloud, both in their own language and at least one other language which the Jews present understood, and Peter knew that they were saved! He

"When Did You Get Saved?"

By Evangelist Rolfe Barnard

c/o Clayton Street Baptist Church Montgomery, Ala.



Evangelist Rolfe Barnard

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the princes of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation (manner of living) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"—Ephesians 2:1-8.

People in Bible days got saved. They had what the old-timers were wont to call an experience of grace. They knew when they were saved. Do you? So many hope to be saved. So many say, "I think I am a Christian." So many say, "I try to live right." Lest you miss the mark and perish forever, may I humbly yet insistently press the question upon you: when did you get saved?

In our scripture we have three great truths set before us:

First, the terrible condition of the unsaved.

Second, the crisis of the New Birth.

Third, the change wrought in the life of the believing sinner.

I. The Condition Of The Unsaved

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Paul uses contrast here. Before you were quickened you were dead in trespasses and sins. Dead, not sick. Dead, not ailing. Dead to God. Dead to God! Dead to a holy walk. The sinner needs, therefore, life—not help. He must be made dead to sin (not dead in sins) and alive to God. Such is the condition of the lost.

How do unsaved folks walk and act and live? By contrast Paul answers, "Wherein, (that is, in your dead condition) we first walked according to the course of the world." (You were energized and empowered by the devil.) Note well, this is how they walked before they were quickened. Whatever is popular, ordinary and quite the thing to do, lost sinners, controlled by Satan, energized by him, make haste to do. Professing Christian, is this true of you? If so, I warn you that the evidence is against your being born again. This language in verses two and three is descriptive of the unsaved. How do you walk? Are you energized by Satan or by the Holy Spirit?

But verse three continues the contrast, "Among whom also we all had our manner of living (that is, before we were quickened) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, (and that kind of living was a matter of course, for we were) by nature the children of wrath, even as others." What a picture of living today—living as if satisfaction of the desires of body and mind were all that is worthy

of attention, living as if men have no soul and spirit, following the dictates of the evil nature with which men are born. Remember, this is a description of the manner of living of people before they were quickened by the Holy Spirit. But God pity us, it also is a description of many who claim to be Christians. One must have a microscope now if he would find evidences of the New Birth in far too many lives.

By nature, that is, the nature we receive by our birth in the flesh, men sin as easily as water flows downhill. Being dead in trespasses and sins, with a nature that makes it hard to do right and easy to do wrong, men will land in Hell unless a crisis occurs. And this leads us to our second truth.

II. The Crisis Of The New Birth

Thank God, dead man can be made alive. Men with sinful nature. Continued on Page 3)

Only 12 More Days!

Tenth Anniversary Subscription Campaign Closes November 15; Tennessee Pastor Sends 92 Subscriptions; Kentucky Woman Sends 100; Help Reach 10,000 Goal!

The Sword of the Lord is ten years old. To celebrate we have put on an expansion program, attempting to get 10,000 subscriptions. We are offering the new book by Editor John R. Rice, THE RUIN OF A CHRISTIAN, 117 pages, twelve chapters, for the reviving and cleansing of Christians, with each two subscriptions, at \$1 a year. This campaign is now drawing to a close. Please get your letter in the mail by midnight, November 15. The letter does not have to reach us by November 15, but should be postmarked on or before November 15. Therefore, get all the subscriptions you can for The Sword of the Lord and get your letter in the mail by November 15!

That is only twelve days from the date this issue is published. There will only be time enough to mention it in one more issue of The Sword of the Lord.

Many Are Helping; Are You?

A Christian woman of Campbellsville, Kentucky, has sent one hundred subscriptions to The Sword of the Lord. Some people paid for their own subscriptions; she paid for those of many others. She said, "I have these Swords sent

to people to encourage praying for revivals and soul winning. I am so hungry for something real, for a great outpouring of God's Spirit in our town. Not just our church, but others as well. Many country churches around here are pastorless now, including our own. We are sheep wandering around without a shepherd, not knowing what way to turn." This earnest Christian has taken upon herself the burden for a revival, and God will surely help her to bring it about. Are you doing your part for your community?

A pastor of three rural churches near Ripley, Tennessee, writes, saying, "It is my desire to place a year's subscription in each home of my three churches. I have to date sent, and these have been given, 92 one-year subscriptions. I truly believe that it is seed sown that will bring a great harvest. It is without doubt the finest Christian weekly published. I praise Him for the one who put me in touch with your magazine, or rather paper.

Your work is a blessed one and I know your burdens and trials are great, but I Peter 5:7 and Philipians 4:19 are still in the Book.

(Continued on Page 4)

had evidently intended to preach a longer sermon, but the moment these earnest enquirers learned that they should put their trust in Jesus, they did, and were instantly saved!

3. *The palsied man let down through the roof to Jesus.* In Capernaum Jesus preached in a home, and four men, bringing one sick with the palsy, carried him on the roof-top, broke up the tiles, and let the man on his pallet down into the room where Jesus was. Mark 2:5 says, "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Jesus saw their faith, that is, the faith of the four men who carried him and the faith of the palsied man. And instantly He said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." The instant the man believed, he was converted, saved. No matter how old and hardened in sin, no matter how ignorant, the moment he trusted Jesus he was wonderfully converted.

4. *Zacchaeus, the publican.* Zacchaeus was a publican, rich but despised for his sins. He wanted to see Jesus, ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. Jesus saw him and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house." Zacchaeus hurried down to receive Jesus joyfully and told Jesus he planned to give half of his goods to the poor and to restore fourfold anything taken by false accusation. Then Luke 19:9 tells us, "And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house." Here was the publican already converted, already born again! Jesus told him to come down, that He was going to the home of Zacchaeus for dinner. Joyfully Zacchaeus came down to receive Him. And into that welcoming heart Jesus came that moment to save! Forgiven and forgot—(Continued from Page 2)

The Editors' Engagements

October 29—November 12, revival services with Highland Park Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, Dr. William G. Colman, pastor.

November 19-26, at Ft. Wayne Gospel Temple, Founders Week revival services. Rev. Ralph Neighbor, pastor; Mr. Homer Roadeheaver in charge of music.

November 28—December 23, with "The Back to the Bible Broadcast," Lincoln, Nebraska, Rev. Theodore H. Epp, Director. Find "The Back to the Bible Broadcast" on your radio, if you can. Stations will be announced later for this important chain broadcast.

DR. ROBERT J. WELLS, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, will be engaged November 5-26 at Marion, Indiana. Dr. Wells may be addressed in care of The Sword of the Lord, 145 N. Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Will you pray for these special revival efforts?

Instantaneous Conversions

(Continued from Page 1)

ten were all the years of crooked dealing, of extortion of the poor. Repentance was a heart matter that took only a second of heart-turning. He was saved before he got to make good on any of his vows. Repentance and faith together came in the same instant; and he, trusting Christ, was saved.

5. *The publican in the temple.* A Pharisee prayed a long prayer, telling God how good he was. But Luke 18:13 and 14 says, "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified..." Here is a man who prayed a prayer of seven words, "God be merciful to me a sinner," turned away and went down to his house already justified, no sins charged against him, gloriously saved! He may not even have said the words aloud. God saw his heart. And the moment he looked in penitent faith to Christ, he was already justified and went home happy. A wonderful example of instantaneous conversion.

6. *The sinful woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee.* Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of Simon the Pharisee. A notoriously sinful woman came in as Jesus reclined on a couch at the meal. She began to weep over His dusty feet till her tears washed them, and then she dried them with the hair of her head. The Pharisee thought that Jesus was no prophet or He would have known about the woman's sin and sent her away. Luke 7:48 tells us that Jesus turned to her and said, "Thy sins are forgiven." And Luke 7:50 tells us, "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." Note that it was not the weeping which saved her, in fact, Jesus indicated that the woman wept over His feet and washed them with tears because she already loved Him so much; she loved much because she had already been forgiven much. The moment she came and trusted, she was forgiven. Her tears were the tears of love and gratitude. Her faith had instantly saved her.

In fact, not once in the Bible are we plainly told that anyone had to keep pleading in order to get saved or go through any process in order to get saved. All the converts in Bible times were saved instantly. It is interesting to note that none of these were even on their knees when saved! The dying thief hung on a cross. Cornelius and his household sat about or stood listening to Peter preach. Zacchaeus was sliding down the tree to receive Jesus joyfully. The palsied man lay on his cot. The publican stood in the temple. The sinful woman stood behind Jesus weeping. People in Bible times just trusted Christ, with penitent hearts, and were instantly saved.

II. Many Scriptures Plainly Say Salvation Is Instantaneous

We have seen Bible examples of people who were saved instantly.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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Now let us see Bible precepts that plainly promise instant salvation to all who believe.

1. *John 3:18: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* Here we are told that one who has believed is no longer condemned. He is out from under condemnation for all his sins. They are laid on Jesus. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." But here we are told that "he that believeth not is condemned already." One who has not trusted in Jesus is condemned. The instant one trusts in Christ he is no longer condemned. Condemnation passes away instantly when one believes in Christ in the sense of saving faith, that is relying on Christ for forgiveness.

2. *John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."* One who believes in Christ already that instant has everlasting life. As instantaneously as a flash of God's lightning, God changes the heart and forgives the sin of one who believes in Christ. When you trust Christ, immediately you are already saved. That is instantaneous conversion.

3. *John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* Here again the Lord Jesus tells us that one who believes, trusting God the Father who sent Jesus into the world to save him, "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Or as the Revised Version puts it, "out of death into life." That is instant salvation.

4. *John 6:47: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."* Here again in the very words of Jesus we have the statement that "He that believeth on me HATH everlasting life." The moment you put your trust in Jesus you already have everlasting life. Instant salvation!

5. *Acts 13:39: "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."* Paul and Barnabas were in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia and preached to Jews there through Jesus the forgiveness of sins. And their plain statement is that all who believe in Christ are already justified from everything, counted just, Christ was counted a sinner. One who trusts in Christ is counted righteous, that is, is justified. And when does justification happen? It happens the very moment one believes. One who believes is already justified. That is instant salvation.

When the Scripture uses other terms about salvation for the familiar word *believe*, always the Bible speaks of instant salvation. When one repents it is an instant turning of the heart, not a period of doing penance, as our Catholic friends have been taught. If the Bible says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), then it does not mean the coming of walking down an aisle, or of going to church. No, it means the heart's coming to Jesus, which is an instantaneous matter. And when the heart says, "I come!" the Lord Jesus says, "I receive!" The acceptance is in the same instant as the coming.

When the Scripture says, "Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13), it does not refer to formal prayer. No, God means here only the heart-cry of faith. For in the

following verse we are told, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" One who calls on God for mercy in audible prayer has already trusted in the heart and so the outward words of prayer are only the expression of a heart faith that has already gained salvation, the instant one believed.

All the teaching of the Bible is that people are saved instantly.

III. What Instantaneous Conversions Prove

The kind of salvation that one gets instantly is an entirely different kind of salvation from any that one would get bit by bit, as a slow process. The very fact that Bible salvation is an instant salvation shows what kind of salvation it is. Let us see, then, what instant salvation proves.

1. *Salvation is not by man's works.* Romans 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight." Galatians 3:11 says, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Many, many other Scriptures make it clear that it is not by doing good deeds, that is, obeying the laws of God, that people get converted. Titus 3:5 says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." And the very fact that salvation is instantaneous proves it could not be by works. What works could a man do in a fraction of a second that would attain salvation? All he can do is in the heart, a decision to trust in Christ, turning from his sin.

2. *Instantaneous conversion cannot come by church rites or religious ceremonies.* All the six examples given, Bible cases of instantaneous conversion, were saved without any ceremonials or rites of the church. All were saved without baptism, saved without confirmation, saved without taking the Lord's Supper, saved without church membership. I have no doubt that some of them were baptized, perhaps all of them except the dying thief, after conversion. But they were already saved before they were baptized. I have an idea that those who could, studied the Bible, and grew in grace as Christians. But they were already saved, the moment they trusted in Christ! Instant salvation necessarily happens in the heart, without waiting for religious rites and ceremonies.

3. *Instant salvation precludes any period of mourning or waiting or extended praying.* The sinful woman discussed in Luke, chapter 7, was weeping, but the tears had nothing to do with her salvation, for Jesus said to her, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:50). Her weeping grew out of her love, no doubt, and her glad joy that she had been forgiven so much, as Jesus said. People may weep in sorrow over their sins before they are saved, or they may weep for joy after they are saved; but in neither case does the weeping have anything directly to do with their salvation. One who is weeping and yet unsaved should quit his weeping and trust Christ. To weep for days would not save one, but the very moment one trusts in Christ, then he has instant salvation, whether it is preceded by weeping or not. To be sure, there is a heart-turning from sin, when anyone honestly comes to Christ and trusts in Christ, but that heart-turning is a simple decision of the will that may take but an instant. Zacchaeus slid down the tree to receive Jesus joyfully, and the moment he hit the ground he was ready to make restitution for wrongs committed, and Jesus said that salvation had already come to his house.

In a fine article published in *The Sword of the Lord* the manuscript had spoken of sinners "weep-

ing their way to Jesus," but when the matter was called to the attention of the author, he instantly agreed that people do not weep their way to Jesus. People do not "weep their way to Calvary. That is not the way to Jesus nor the way to Calvary. The way to Jesus is to simply trust him, and the honest decision of a penitent heart to turn to Jesus and risk Him for salvation. We ought not to use the term "weeping their way to Jesus," because that is not the way to get to Jesus and that is misleading and contrary to Bible doctrine and Bible example.

With the sick man and his physician it is, "I am willing for you to take my case; I trust you to get me well." With the bride standing with her bridegroom at the marriage altar, it is, "I, Mary, take thee, John," or a simple "I do." And with a poor sinner and the Saviour it is a simple, "I believe that you love me and died to save me as you say. I here and now take you to be my Saviour and trust you to save my soul." Salvation, since it is an instant salvation, must be settled by a simple and instant heart transaction. Jesus promised to save those who trust Him, those who come to Him. The moment we come or the moment we trust or the moment we receive Him, by faith, it is done.

5. *Salvation, then, is a miracle of God's grace.* A man might grow better outwardly by years of self-judgment, by years of correcting his habits and subduing his passions. But no man can instantly change his nature, his own heart. So when people are converted instantly, that proves that God Himself has worked a miracle. Salvation is what God does, not what men do. One who is saved thus becomes a child of God instantly. His sins are forgiven; his name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. He has everlasting life. Salvation, then, is a wonderful miracle of God's grace. The sinner cannot save himself, the sinner

cannot keep himself. But by instantaneous conversion, a child is born into God's family. The new convert is now a partaker of the divine nature. The Holy Spirit now lives in his heart, literally in his body.

Sometimes lost sinners are told that they must "pray through." But no sinner ever needs to "pray through" for salvation. Jesus Christ has already paid through, and all a sinner needs to do to turn to

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When Did You Get Saved?

(Continued from page 1)

tures can become possessors of a new nature, a divine nature, a nature that loves right and hates wrong. This is what happens when men are quickened by the power of God. It is not that dead men make themselves live. It is not that men with evil natures gradually become men with new natures. No, it is rather that dead men are made alive by the Holy Spirit and the new nature is given from above. This is what happens when men are saved. This is a crisis, not a growth. At a given moment the dead sinner is made alive and the divine nature is imparted.

Has such a crisis been your experience? This is what our Lord meant when to Nicodemus he said, 'Ye must be born from above'. This is what Paul is describing when he says, 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new' (II Cor. 5:17). This is what he is saying when he says, 'Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his' (Romans 8:9).

When did this happen to you? Has this happened to you? Many can give the time when they publicly professed Jesus Christ. Were you made alive then? Did you receive a new nature then? Many can give the time when they joined the church but are hesitant and confused when the question is pressed, 'When were you saved, born from above, made a new creature in Christ?'

I press the question. It is important. Dead men who join the church will not escape Hell. Dead men with the old evil nature without a rival in the new may make all the but the man who has not been made alive by the act of God and given a new nature from Him will find, perhaps, church doors open but Heaven's door barred.

I press the question, 'When were you saved?' I remember when I joined the church. I also remember the eleven long years I spent trying to live a Christian life without the new nature. I remember with tears the sins, the failure, the shame. It can't be done! No one can live a Christian life unless he

is first made a Christian. Then with what joy I remember the time when I was saved, when peace, and power to say no to Sin and yes to God came.

You see I have been born anew. I was there when it happened. I throw it in Satan's face when he would trouble me about my Salvation. I take him back to that hour when with burdened heart and soul I found life and rest and salvation in Christ Jesus. I beg any who read these lines not to be satisfied about your soul unless you know these was a definite time when you were saved.

I tell you, in Bible times, people knew when they received salvation. In Bible times people experienced a crisis in their lives, and that crisis is imperative for people today.

Suppose we call a few Bible characters to the stand. Just let us talk with Abraham. 'Abraham, when did you become a christian? Did you just grow into it or did you die just hoping you were saved?' The answer comes flashing back: 'No, I did not grow into being a Christian. I was an idol worshiper. One night God took me out under the stars and said to me, 'Abraham, look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able number them; and he said unto me, So shall thy seed be.' and I believed in the Lord (who was to come) and God counted it to me for righteousness. I was saved then and there under the stars of Heaven.' Paul seizes upon this incident in Romans, chapter 4, to prove his argument that men are saved by faith. Abraham did the believing (about the seed, Christ, who was to come). God did the saving. God counted him righteous when he believed.

Ask Paul when he was saved. (He was religious enough, but lost just the same). 'Paul, did you have an experience that changed you and your life?' Paul flashes back, 'Yes, I did. I persecuted the people of the way. I was zealous in the religion of my youth. But one day on my way to Damascus I was arrested by a voice. It said, 'Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?' I said 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And the answer came back, 'I am Jesus.' " And Paul says, "I cried out, 'What wilt thou have me to do?' " If you were able to ask him, 'When were you saved Paul?' he would answer, 'At noonday on the road to Damascus I was born from above as one ahead of time.'

Ask the Philippian jailer, 'When were you saved?' The answer would come back, crystal clear, 'At midnight when the jailhouse had rocked with the shock of the earthquake and when my prisoners stood there unshackled and unharmed, when I cried to them, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' When they told me, 'Believe on the Lord, Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,' then I believed. I was saved at midnight.'

John Wesley preached for years and then was saved. He did feel his heart strangely warmed. O, my friend, when were you saved? Someone said, 'Every bell in

Heaven rang when I was born again.' Have you been quickened by the Holy Spirit of God? Millions now living with professions of faith, church memberships, baptism and some good deeds on the credit side have never been saved. Have you?

But you say, 'Preacher how may I be sure I am saved?' I hasten to answer, and this question brings us to our third truth.

III. The Changes Wrought By The Crisis

Does any one doubt that saved people live and act differently than before they were saved? Surely Abraham did. He became known as the friend of God and the father of the faithful. Surely Paul did. He became the great Apostle to the Gentiles and the pattern for believers. Surely the evidence shows the jailer did for he won his whole household to Christ and washed the stripes of Paul and Silas.

Yes, people who are quickened by the Holy Spirit are changed. A Christian is not some one who makes a change himself but someone who has been changed by God. A Christian is not someone working for God but someone who has received a great work from God. God does not change the world. He changes the sinner. God does not clean up the hog pen. He changes the hog.

Look what our Scripture says God does: 'But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus' (Eph. 2:4-6).

Two marvelous things take place through the new birth. As I discuss them, I charge you to examine your own relationship to God in their light.

1. When God changes us he breaks the power of the old nature. This great operation is clearly set forth in these words of Scripture, 'What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?' (Romans 6:1-2). Again in verses 6 and 7 of this same chapter, we read, 'Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.' The old nature is not done away with when we are saved, but, thank God, its power is broken. It need not lead us around by our noses any longer. We can now say no to its demands. We need no longer be its slave. While we were dead in sins our old nature had right of way. But when we are saved we become dead to sin (not in sins) and alive to God. The drunkard who cannot overcome his terrible thirst for liquor, gets saved and then he has a new power to overcome his former master. The worldling can now say no to the allurements of this present hour. Sin need no longer have dominion over the child of God. And how happy we are when we remember that 'There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but (Continued on Page 4)

Instantaneous Conv.

(Continued from Page 2)

Christ is to honestly, sincerely accept Christ as Saviour, depending on Him and believing on Him for the forgiveness which He has already promised. Christians, those already saved, sometimes need to pray through about other matters. Jesus told about the widow who 'prayed through' to the unjust judge and was avenged of her adversaries (Luke 18:1-8). Jesus told of the man who came to his friend to seek three loaves of bread and 'prayed through,' that is, by his importunity he got what he wanted. And so may Christians keep on praying, pleading with God, for other matters. But remember, no one needs to 'pray through' about salvation. That would not be instant salvation. The very fact that salvation is instantaneous proves that it cannot be received as a drawn-out process, as some things are received.

4. Instantaneous salvation proves that it is settled by a simple transaction of faith. Many transactions are simple acts of faith. With the bank and depositor it is, 'I deposit my money, risking you to keep it.' With the lawyer and his client it is, 'I depend upon you to get me out of jail.'

Oh, instantaneous conversion proves that salvation is the marvelous gift of God's love and grace. And since God does it, and does it freely, for people who do not deserve it, then anyone who will may be saved.

Have you, dear reader, been converted, born again? If not, then put your trust in Jesus, have that simple transaction all settled, and you will have instantaneously everlasting

ing life. 'He that believeth on him is not condemned'—John 3:18. 'He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life'—John 3:36. 'He that believeth on me hath everlasting life'—John 6:47. 'All that believe are justified'—Acts 13:39.

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(Continued from Page 1)

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When Did You Get Saved?

(Continued from Page 3)

God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

What a marvelous change. No longer need Satan overcome. No longer need we be slaves to the lusts of the flesh. No longer need we go around seeking to satisfy the desires of the flesh and the mind. The old man has been delivered a blow. God did it. The saved one can therefore live for God. Is this true of you? If not, are you certain you are saved?

2. But again, not only is the old nature's power broken but a new nature is given when we are saved. We were by nature the children of wrath, but now we are made "partakers of the divine nature." (II Pet. 1:4) Something new is this. It is the gift of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. The old nature now has a rival. An Isaac is come to dispute the claims of an Ishmael. By no stretch of the imagination can one conceive of acquiring this new nature by training or culture. It must come from God. And thank God it does. To be saved, to be born from above, is to receive this wonderful gift. And what a change it brings! Now the sinner loves righteousness and hates sin. Now his new nature cries out to please God, not himself. Now his heart longs to pray, though he is tempted to play. Now he hungers after God, though the flesh may be tempted by the husks of the world. Now he does not like the hog pen. Now he loves the people of God. Now he is a different person! "What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart," is his daily song. This new nature in men, if allowed to control, sends missionaries across the ocean, wins souls across the street, and causes one to strive after holiness in his daily walk.

Once I did not love the souls of lost men, but now I do. The difference is that now I have the new nature God gives. Once I did not care to pray. Now "tis fellowship divine" and sometimes joy unspeakable to talk with my God. The difference is the new nature, when allowed to rule.

Once the pleasures of the world lured me on. Now I am happy only when I am serving my Lord. The difference is the new nature. My friend, do you have this new nature? Does sin bring you misery now? When you fail and fall into the slime of sin, does it trouble you sorely and bring you to confession and forgiveness? Can you go the pace of many church members today and at the same time have no heartbreak and bitterness of soul? Can you enjoy sin? If so, my friend, I warn you about your soul! Beware! Saved people cannot sin and be happy at the same time.

There is one vast difference between the saved and the unsaved. It is not that one sins and the other does not. Both the Christian and the lost sinner sin. The difference lies first in the reason why each sins. The unsaved sinner sins because he loves sin. The saved sinner sins because of weakness or failing to rely on the Holy Spirit

for power to overcome. In the second place the difference lies in the attitude of one who has sinned. While the unsaved man may suffer no heart pangs of a stricken conscience, not so with the Christian. Immediately he realizes his sin and if he will avoid chastening he must hasten to the Father in penitent prayer for forgiveness.

I tell you it is not possible for one with a divine nature to sin and enjoy it. Sin has lost its kick for one who has become a child of God.

Just here is a good place for one to take stock of his relationship to God. The new nature may be starved but it cannot be killed. It may be abused but not erased. If you find praying and giving, witnessing and testifying, church going and service unappealing, while the place of pleasure and the satisfaction of the lusts of the flesh pull you without a prick of conscience, I beg you to give serious attention to the eternal needs of your soul. I tell you it is extremely doubtful if you are saved.

Christians are not like slaves, driven to arduous, unpleasant duties, but like dearly beloved children whose delight is in doing that which pleases the Father. Remember, God changes the sinner when he is born from above. The drunkard once in love with his bottle now hates the bottle and loves safer living. The worldly going from one pleasure to another now remembers with shame his former shallow, piggy life and now has a desire not to be amused but to be useful to others. The proud devotee to religion with his external piety and smug self-conceit, now realizes that God looks on the heart and prefers a broken and contrite spirit to a succession of formal exercises of worship. I tell you without this change, Heaven's door is barred to all. "Ye must be born from above," said our Saviour. There is to be no exception.

And now I must conclude. But I press again the question, when were you saved? When was the power of the old sinful nature with which you were born broken? When were you made as Peter says "partakers of the divine nature"? (II Peter 1:4). When did it become possible for you to be described in these words, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God; which had not obtained mercy,

but now have obtained mercy." I Peter 2:9-10. When did you become a 'new born babe'? (I Peter 2:2). And if you are able to answer these questions, I charge you, first, since the power of your old nature has been broken, let not sin have dominion over you. You do not have to. See to it you do not. Second, feed the new man. Let him grow. Let him have the victory in your life.

But if you cannot answer my question, I charge you that God requires a new Birth. I beg you not to be satisfied with a profession of faith, church membership or anything short of a definite experience of being born again. For if men must be born from above, it is also true that they can be. "The Son of man must be lifted up," said Jesus. A full, honest, earnest surrender to him has gained a new heart and a new will for millions. Lost friend, make that surrender now. You do the surrendering. God will do the changing. May the scripture be able to refer to you when "ou read, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23)

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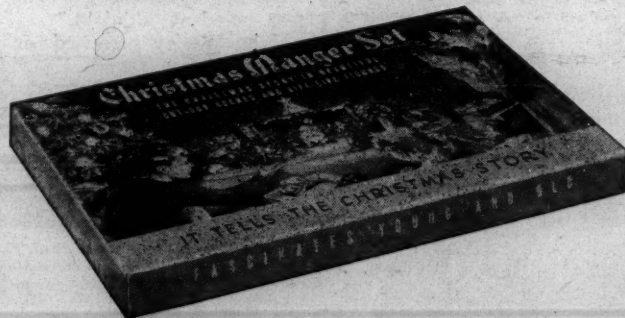
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